

## F.D Emperor 1311

### Chapter 1311 Meeting Emperor Kong

Wang Wei understood. Most factions will not tell their disciples matters higher than their cultivation. He was unique in the sense that he was already involved in things about transcendence while still a little mortal.

"What is your role in the Academy?" Wang Wei asked while observing the surroundings. "Are you a teacher or a student? What about Xu Shi and Lin Fan?"

"I'm a first-class teacher," Bai Han said with pride. "As for them? They are high-level students."

"First Class Teacher? So, does that mean Emphyreans are second class, and Paragon will be third class? Quite ambitious."

"What Emperor is not ambitious, especially the ones who rose from the lower dimension," Bai Han replied.

"True that," Wang Wei agreed. "What's the difference between students and teachers?"

"Teachers' purpose is, well, to teach. Students are trained to be Elders or Guardians of the Academy. They are the protectors and main fighting force."

"Does that mean students are the Academy's future goon and the teachers are future Deans?" Wang Wei asked in a strange tone.

"Of course not," Bai Han immediately denied it. "According to my father's rules, students can become teachers, and teachers can revert their status to students. The resources available to them are the same; the main difference between them is their focus."

"Students focus on their cultivation without worrying about training others or giving lectures. However, they must also take missions to contribute to the Academy. Meanwhile, teachers cultivate by training others."

Wang Wei understood the system. The Literary Way can increase its strength by cultivating students. As long as their students have specific achievements — let's say, proving the Dao and becoming Emperor — they can receive feedback that can dramatically increase their strength and cultivation realm in proportion to how much they contributed to their student's success. It's not impossible for someone with low talent but is an excellent teacher to use the Literary Way to prove the Dao (with a Heaven Will), but they must contribute immensely to their students' success or train multiple students and have a net positive influence in their accomplishment.

"Are there any requirements to become a teacher?" Wang Wei.

"Yes, and there are a few, with the primary ones being that all teachers must condense their Righteous Qi or cultivate an auxiliary technique with the same effect."

"That's a wise move," Wang Wei praised. Righteous Qi can give birth to Literary Talents, which vary based on the scholar's path. However, since the academy took the teaching path, all their condensed talents are biased toward that area. As such, it's normal for the Academy's teacher to have skills that can help their students. A perfect example is Lin Fan's former teacher, who had the talent to create the ideal training plan for his students. There is also Bai Han's talent called [Preaching], which can drastically increase a person's understanding after listening to his sermon.

Wang Wei chatted with Bai Han as he observed the environment. He saw numerous sights: teachers giving outdoor lessons, students hunting in the forest, and even finding "fortunate encounters." He also noticed countless hidden dimensions in this world and guessed they were the Academy's training secret realms.

'I wonder if Emperor Kong has any decent secret realm to train the body! Should I ask him?' Wang Wei thought. 'Forget about it. My future wife should have the best of the best.' They soon reached their destination: a beautiful lake with a walking road directly connected to a small pavilion floating in the middle of the water. "Please," Bai Han said, pointing to the path. His demeanor was that of a true scholar who follows etiquette.

"Thank you," Wang Wei nodded. Although he did not care for these kinds of customs, he would respect them since he was in someone else's place.

Emperor Kong was standing with his hands behind his back, a small table, and two chairs next to him. His black scholarly robe perfectly accentuated his sage-like face, overshadowing what modern people call "middle-aged uncle charm."

"Fellow Daoist, I would like to once again apologize for missing our previous meeting."

"There is no need for that," Emperor Kong said with a gentle smile. "Based on the previous situation, I might have canceled the meeting." Emperor Kong was not just saying these words out of politeness. After the significant event that was the death of a Paragon, he had much to do, so there was a high chance he would have canceled on Wang Wei had the latter's people not sent words beforehand.

"Thank you for your understanding."

"Please." Emperor Kong said, and Wang Wei sat down. "Do you want tea or wine?" Wang Wei's body visibly paused, and Kong, who was observing his every move, noticed. "Is something wrong?"

"I've participated in many meetings and just realized people rarely offer wine — they usually directly give me tea. Now that I think about it, I also only offered tea."

"Don't Fellow Daoists like tea?" Kong asked. That couldn't be. He remembered the information stating that Wang Wei's favorite tea was called Longjue. People who don't like tea don't have a favorite.

"That's not it," Wang Wei replied. It just dawned on him, hence his reaction. "I'll take the wine."

"Good." Emperor Kong waved his hand to materialize two wine cups with a purple liquid. "This is called the Immortal Dreaming Wine — have a taste."

Wang Wei raised his wine and took a whiff. His eyes lit up as even the smell was intoxicating. He sipped it before closing his eyes. His mind immediately entered a trance where he saw a beautiful woman dancing. Many transparent red silk sheets were around, preventing him from seeing her face or body, but even her silhouette was enchanting beyond words. Her dance was graceful and ethereal, like an immortal from the Heavens not sullied by the rains and dust of the mortal world.

He instinctively chased after the woman, but whatever he did, he could not catch her. Meanwhile, her dance became more elusive, less ethereal, and more teasing. Wang Wei soon reached the final silk sheet, and the dance finished. He hesitated briefly as he looked at the silhouette opposite him until he heard her voice: "Come."

He removed the obstacle and finally saw the beauty behind — she had his future wife's face. She smiled at him and blew him a kiss. Then, Wang Wei opened his eyes from the dream.

"What an Immortal Dreaming Wine," Wang Wei praised.

Emperor Kong chuckled. "Who did Fellow Daoist see? It couldn't have been Miss Xun Junyao, right?"

"I should ask you that question."

"You jest. I'm a happily married man," Emperor Kong swiftly said. His wife was not pleased with his friendship with Xun Junyao, even after explaining countless times it was more of a business relationship, so he immediately ended this topic after realizing he could not get more information from Wang Wei about what happened that day.

"What do you think of the Academy?" Emperor Kong asked, changing the topic.

"It's wonderful," Wang Wei replied sincerely.

"I'm sure it's nothing compared to your sect," Emperor Kong replied humbly.

"I wouldn't know," Wang Wei said as he sipped his wine. Unfortunately, he was conversing, so he had to cancel the dreaming effect.

"However, I mean what I said. It's beyond impressive that you can build such a foundation in such a short time span." In this era, every faction was being weakened or destroyed, but the Emperor Enlightening Academy rose and prospered. This is due to Emperor Kong's years of planning, calculations, and ability to adapt to the situation.

Emperor Kong smiled. Although he never showed it, he was indeed proud of his accomplishments. However, they were far from enough, so he constantly reminded himself that this was the beginning.

"While you're here, I'll take this opportunity to thank you."

"For what?"

"For Xu Shi, Lin Fan, and everything you did in the lower dimension," Emperor Kong explained. "The rise of the lower dimension's sect brought me tremendous Luck Blessing, and your presence even saved our academy."

"Oh?" Wang Wei understood the first part, but he had no idea what Emperor Kong meant by the latter.

"These people were unhappy with the prosperity of the Academy, so they were planning on suppressing me," Emperor Kong explained calmly. "However, they soon were distracted by your presence to the point they'd forgotten. Then, before I had to do anything, the world changed drastically, and they entered the frontier."

"That's just a manifestation of your great destiny." Wang Wei did not take credit for this as he did nothing to deserve it.

"Even if you don't accept this karma, I must still repay you for the others," Emperor Kong replied calmly. Xu Shi and Lin Fan became the foundation of his Academy, so the help Wang Wei provided to them formed a deep karmic debt. Kong understood the negative effect of not paying karmic debts — especially to a master of Karma Dao. He did not want anything to affect the Academy's Luck, so even if Wang Wei did not say anything or acknowledge it, he would find a way to repay the favor.

"That's fine by me," Wang Wei nodded.

## Chapter 1312 Do You Plan To Do It?

Many people owe Wang Wei's karma, and he often goes out of his way to help people with the mindset of them owing a debt, which he plans to ask for repayment for one day. His mindset around this kind of thing is he'll do it to prepare for the future, but it doesn't matter if he never uses them.

He sipped his wine, savoring the taste. He calmly looked at the beautiful lake, including the rainbow in the distance. "By the way, why not change the Academy's name to Emphyrean Enlightening Academy? Do you want to keep the name forever? Or do you want to wait until you are qualified to call it Paragon Enlightening Academy?"

"Paragon Enlightening?" Emperor Kong muttered. "That's a wonderful name, isn't it?"

"Hmm?" Wang Wei glanced at him. "Why do you sound like you're not satisfied enough?" Wang Wei squinted: "Could it be you're ambitious enough to want to take the name [Dao Enlightening Academy]?"

Emperor Kong waved his hand, "I'm not that brave or stupid." He knew if he used the word [Dao] without being worthy, his sect's luck would instantly be ruined, leading to its eventual destruction. According to what Emperor Kong knows, only two factions have ever bore the title of [Dao] throughout the Eternal Ascension World's history.

The first is from an era so long ago that it has been lost to history, and the other is the Dao Opening Sect. However, the Dao Opening Sect did not dare take this name before doing great, meritorious service to Heaven and Earth during the Devil Catastrophe. Before that, it was only called the [Myriad Origin Sect].

Despite the Dao Opening Sect being acknowledged by Heavenly Dao, many people felt they did not deserve such a grand title. It was not a problem in the lower dimension, but their virtue could not support that name even after what they did during the war. It wasn't until after the Ultimate Taboo that people truly acknowledged that title.

Qiyuan "opened the Dao" to the entire Chaos Universe by making the way of transcendence more accessible so the whole universe can accept the Dao Opening Sect having such a title in their name.

"So, what is it then?" Wang Wei asked.

"Paragon is not the limit of cultivation, is it?" Emperor Kong responded.

"An academy that trains Transcendent?" Wang Wei chuckled. "Ambitious, indeed."

"Oh, fellow Daoist, do you think I'm over my head?" Emperor Kong asked.

"I'll be frank," Wang Wei said after taking another sip. "I believe, without a doubt, you can build an academy on par with the [Thirteen Overlords]. However, I have not seen any signs that you have the potential to reach that realm."

"Is that so?" Emperor Kong said calmly, showing no signs of being affected by Wang Wei's words. He sipped his own wine: "I was under the impression you thought highly of that girl Xu Shi."

"I do," Wang Wei admitted. "However, I have divided Transcendent Potential into three levels." He did not continue talking but instead waved his hand to isolate the surrounding sights from prying eyes and put the surrounding cause and effect in disarray to prevent divination or calculations.

"The first class consists of people who have established a Transcendent Foundation. These are the people with the highest possibilities of achieving transcendence — some can even be called Transcendent Seed," Wang Wei boldly declared.

The Transcendent Foundation that Wang Wei is talking about is not just his Perfect Foundation and its effect. He's talking about people who have at least achieved the Nine Extremity Foundation and entered the Taboo Realm in at least one of the three Immortal Realms or have some of the essence of transcendence, like Xun Junyao. These people have a much higher chance of achieving Half-Step Transcendence than everyone else.

In that category, Wang Wei considered himself the best because of all his achievements, like Mortal Emperor, Ten Supremacy Foundation, becoming a Heavenly Emperor, and linking an entire era to his [Existence] — all these things have contributed to his Transcendent Foundation.

"Transcendent Foundation?" Emperor Kong asked with a serious look. However, Wang Wei only smiled but did not answer.

"The second category is the people talented and intelligent enough to create a method of transcendence," Wang Wei continued. "There is a vast difference in this level as well. Some people only have a vague idea, some are already working on turning this idea into a reality, and ultimately, only a few will succeed."

Emperor Kong swallowed the wine. "The third level?" He did not ask Wang Wei to elaborate further since he knew he wouldn't get much of an answer.

"The final level is where I placed you, Xu Shi, and Lin Fan," Wang Wei explained. "This level belongs to people who have the talent to achieve transcendence only if they receive an already made and completed technique." Wang Wei can already predict how brutal the Path of Transcendence will be. Countless geniuses who used to be the shining stars of the Chaos Universe will realize their incompetence and insignificance before that barrier called [Transcendence].

"To be fair, you three masters and disciples have the potential to establish a Transcendent Foundation — if you know the requirements," Wang Wei continued. "Additionally, I don't know enough about you to determine whether you can be classified in the second category."

Emperor Kong calmly refilled his cup. Although he looked calm on the surface, his mind was experiencing great turmoil. Was Wang Wei lying? This was Emperor Kong's thought after hearing these words. He had his reasons for thinking such a thing. Firstly, this is something that Wang Wei would do — lie to further his goal. And what would those goals be? It's evident to Emperor Kong based on how he dangled information about transcendence over him like a hunter using a carrot to lure a rabbit from their hiding hole.

However, certain things made him doubt his judgment. As soon as Wang Wei uttered the words [Transcendent Foundation], the first thing he thought of was Xun Junyao. Perfection has always been a taboo in the world, and most people who pursue this path usually end up miserable. But what was it a taboo? Emperor Kong was wise enough to link Grand Dao's ban on Perfection to its connection to the [Transcendent Path]. So, he immediately thought that Xun Junyao might belong to a unique individual in Wang Wei's first category.

Numerous thoughts flashed in Emperor Kong's mind. He analyzed all the information he knew about transcendence and re-evaluated them based on Wang Wei's words. Sadly, he realized he knew too little.

Emperor Kong sighed deeply. 'Our foundation is too shallow.' He suddenly realized how much weaker his academy's foundation was compared to these top lineages who have cultivated countless peak Paragons who have already started their journey toward the next realm. He instantly removed all his pride in building the academy to such a level. Although he always reminded himself that he had a long way to go, today's events showed how true these words were.

Emperor Kong decided to take Wang Wei's bait. He knew he might have to pay a steep price, but getting his hands on such a valuable piece of information would be worth it. "Fellow Daoist—" He stopped as he realized Wang Wei was looking into the sky, and he finally sensed a mysterious aura, so he also raised his head.

"It seems I've said too much, and you're too weak to get involved in matters of this level," Wang Wei said calmly. Even with his preventive measures, he could only say so much. It's also possible that he could say so much because he took the previous measures.

"It seems so," Emperor Kong said, again feeling his insignificance. He sipped his wine and closed his eyes for a few minutes. Once he opened them, he had already adjusted his mindset. Wang Wei



secretly nodded in acknowledgment. Although he purposely suppressed Emperor Kong's arrogance to control the rhythm of their conversation and ensure things favored him during later negotiations, he still appreciated how fast the latter readjusted and controlled his emotions.

"Fellow Daoist, is this the main reason you've visited?"

"Of course not," Wang Wei replied. "My main goal is to ask you whether you're interested or plan on killing one of those parasites. If so, we can work together, or at the very least, come to an agreement so we don't target the same person."

"Killing a Paragon?" Emperor Kong uttered with squinted eyes. "This is not something that anyone can do."

Wang Wei looked at him and shook his head internally. He had many praises for Emperor Kong, but he also had one criticism: he talked like a scholar. He was never direct, his words were always ambiguous with any interpretations, and he stated his thoughts in a roundabout manner.

Wang Wei did not know whether he talked like this with everyone or a tactic he used to deal with him. Regardless, it did not matter; he was now bored with it.

"Be direct and tell me what you're thinking," he said.

## Chapter 1313 81 Tribulations

Despite Wang Wei's words, Emperor Kong remained quiet. The situation was more complex than it appeared. His academy was too entrenched in the lives of the parasites, so he had to make his following decisions carefully. Additionally, he was extremely wary of the person next to him. If he were not careful, Wang Wei would sell him and have him count the money.

"I have to think about this carefully," Emperor Kong replied, once again giving an ambiguous answer.

'What an annoyance,' Wang Wei thought. He realized another characteristic of Emperor Kong — extreme caution. He understood why. After all, the latter had to play a dangerous game of

maintaining a balance with the parasites while secretly helping the rebellion. If one wrong move were made, everything Emperor Kong built would be instantly destroyed.

Wang Wei looked at the sky, and his eyes became extremely profound: "Have you heard of the Endless Tribulation Era?"

"Yes, it's the era before the Golden Era," Emperor Kong replied. Time Eater almost erased this world's history; he even used his Chrono Spirit to block the River of Time to prevent certain capable people from peeking at the past. Of course, such a method does not affect these top lineages, but it did disrupt everything and everyone else.

"I heard that era is our world's version of the Null Era, with civilization restarting," Emperor Kong added. He spent a lot of time and effort, and with Xun Junyao's help, he acquired much knowledge of the world's history. However, Emperor Kong's effort went as far back as the Golden Era, and he knew little about what came before.

"All sentient beings with intelligence have one thing in common: the desire for improvement or evolution," Wang Wei stated calmly. "No one can escape this fact — including Grand Dao." He sipped his wine and emptied the cup. Emperor Kong waved his hand to refill it, breaking etiquette since he should have used a teapot. However, he did not care about that since he had a feeling Wang Wei was about to reveal some outlandish information again.

"Heavenly Dao also wishes to improve, and it happened in that era," Wang Wei continued. "In the lower generation, during my generation, Heavenly Dao skipped your son's time to bring all the luck and destiny of that generation to mine — creating a prosperous era. Meanwhile, True Heavenly Dao did something even more extreme.

"81 tribulations," Wang Wei stated with shining eyes. "During each tribulation, the Eternal Ascension World was ravaged by war, famine, and countless catastrophes, but each time they survived, civilization rebuilt itself, and the world's luck reached a new peak."

Emperor Kong listened attentively while drinking. He compared what Wang Wei said with the information that he had, deducing what he said was the truth, what his motive was, and so on.

"Do you know what the final tribulation was?" Wang Wei asked.

Emperor Kong pondered briefly: "The Innate-Acquire War."

"You would think so, but no," Wang Wei shook his head. "That war was the 80th tribulation and ended that era. Afterward, the human race became the protagonist of Heaven and Earth, and the Eternal Ascension World became one of the many worlds where acquired life is in the dominant position. It can also be said the world determines its position in the eternal battle between Fiengods, Paragons, and Heavenly Primarchs."

Wang Wei moisturized his throat.

"After the war, the world's luck reached an unprecedented height and entered the Golden Era. In some previous eras, it was common for the total number of Paragon to be less than three digits. But at the peak of the Golden Era, all the Overlords had at least hundreds of Paragons, and some were in the thousands."

Wang Wei sighed. He had to give credit to Heavenly Dao. It took the risk of using this tribulation method to drastically improve the Eternal Ascension World's overall strength and power. However, how risky were those 81 tribulations? If any of them went wrong, the world's cultivation civilization would be destroyed and have to restart. The Eternal Ascension World might have spent countless eras trying to recuperate from the devastation.

"During the Golden Era, many extraordinary talents rose up," Wang Wei continued. "For example, my ancestor, Qiyuan. He started the First Origin War, turning the Myriad Emperor World into the destiny center of the lower dimension. However, was this the only effect of that war? Of course not.

"The world's destiny also shifted from the aboriginals born in the upper dimension to the people from the lower dimension." How could the people from the other world communities allow Qiyuan to bless his home world at the detriment of their own? The First Origin War should have ended with these people banding together to defeat the Dao Opening Sect and the others from the Myriad Emperor World. Yet, that's not what happened.

The explanation for this is Qiyuan convinced many people from other world communities to side with him, and the reward was what Wang Wei said: destiny shifting to them. After the war, more and more people from the lower dimension grew until they became the dominant force in the upper dimension.

"I suspect the first war was in preparation for the Second Origin War," Wang Wei analyzed. He had no definite proof of this matter, but he derived this conclusion after researching the historical text.

"Another extraordinary talent of that era is, of course, Empress Wu and her situation is related to you," Wang Wei said, looking at him.

"What do you mean, fellow Daoist?" Emperor Kong was genuinely confused.

"Many major events happened during the Golden Era, but the most significant is the Devil Catastrophe — the 81st and last tribulation."

Emperor Kong squinted.

"Heavenly Dao went all out for this catastrophe — it even acted a little bit reckless by pushing the limit of that tribulation beyond the level of Paragon."

Emperor Kong immediately remembered some of the rumors he had heard about the Devil Primogenitor, and his squinted eyes became even smaller.

"Heavenly Dao's risks paid off. The Golden Era survived the last tribulation, and the world's luck reached another unprecedented height. Qiyuan took this opportunity to launch the Second Origin War. He successfully opened the Transcendent Path to the Chaos Universe and made the Eternal Ascension World the semi-destiny center of the universe."

Emperor Kong frowned: "What does this have to do with Empress Wu and me?"

"Yes, I'm getting ahead of myself," Wang Wei said. "By the end of the Devil Catastrophe, the status of the [Thirteen Overlord] was already established: The Grand Sect Alliance, the Dao Opening Sect, The Myriad Clan Union, the Limitless Exchange Hall, the Tao Beginning Palace, the Ten Thousand Buddha Haven, the Great Qin Court, the Primarch Origin Temple, the Tribal Sacred Mountain, the Sword Path League, the Skill Dao Association, and the Divine Faith Heaven. What am I missing?"

"The Origin Seal Continent," Emperor Kong replied calmly.

"As the saying goes: nine is the extreme, 12 is completion, and 13 is transcendent," Wang Wei continued. "Everyone knew there was one last spot for the top lineage, and as I'm sure you've already guessed, such destiny fell on Empress Wu. With unparalleled talent, she built the Origin Seal Continent and became the last Overlord."

Wang Wei sighed. "She's a wonderful woman, isn't she? She's probably the strongest of all the Primals in that era in terms of direct combat. However, her lineage is slightly better than that of Limitless Exchange Hall in terms of the number of [Primal Strength]. In terms of foundation, such as the number of paragons, empyreans, and middle-level cultivators, she's undoubtedly the weakest.

"You can guess the reason, right?"

"She's too young, and her foundation is the weakest," Emperor Kong replied with a sigh.

"That's right," Wang Wei nodded. "Her rise was only during the middle to late stage of the Golden Era. No matter how wonderful she is, it could not change this fact."

Wang Wei looked at the sky, especially the sun. There used to be seven moons and two suns in the sky, but they were now gone.

"Heavenly Dao has already planned everything," Wang Wei said with a deep voice. "It knew Qiyuan's methods could only summon these inferior, banned, and flawed methods of becoming Half-Step Transcendence."

'Ban? Who can ban these methods?' Emperor Kong thought, his heart shaking. 'Why am I so stupid? Of course, it's Grand Dao. So, that's why that event became the ultimate taboo.'

"Heavenly Dao knew how prideful these people from the Golden Generation were, so how could they accept such flawed methods?" Wang Wei continued. "So, it selected a few people."

Emperor Kong's expression became serious, and looked at the bright sun.

"These people were supposed to be guardians and pathfinders. They were supposed to protect the world while the others recuperated from the damage of the Ultimate Taboo. When the time was right, everybody would work together to perfect the method and open a new era."

Wang Wei was not spouting nonsense. Maitreya was one of the most brilliant talents of the Golden Era, ascending to the position of Prime Buddha and controlling the Ten Thousand Buddha Haven — which became the origin and head of all Buddhist factions in the world. How could such a person not be arrogant? How could such a person accept becoming the weakest type of Half-Step Transcendence?

Wang Wei doesn't know much about Supreme Unity, but his situation was probably similar.

"Can you guess where this story is going?" he asked.

"The guardians turned into usurpers," Emperor Kong sighed. "They changed the trajectory of their and the world's fate, destroying the advent of the new era."

"Destroy? More like delay," Wang Wei chuckled. "Heavenly Dao has great ambitions, and it's been planning for so long." Wang Wei had his suspicions about Heavenly Dao after hearing what happened with Wu Hong and the Curse Master.

"If my theory is correct, it's been planning for a few Transcendent Factions," he continued. "Maybe not 13, but definitely more than 3." He looked at Emperor Kong. "And I'm willing to bet the last spot went to you."

Although Emperor Kong had some guesses about where this conversation was going, his body still trembled after hearing these words. He tried his best to control his emotions, but it was not so easy this time, so he had to sip his drink and use the alcohol's effect to calm down.

## Chapter 1314 Do I Have A Choice?

The Destiny of a Transcendent Faction? Who does not want such a thing? Destiny and luck are two of the supreme Dao, meaning that as long as Emperor Kong played his cards correctly and made no severe mistakes, he was destined for success.

However, the latter could not care about any of that. On the contrary, an overwhelming fear rushed from his mind into his toes. Emperor Kong knew the severity of this kind of news. As long as another word of this conversation gets out, his Academy will be annihilated the next day.

There is no basis for Wang Wei's words besides his analysis. Of course, with enough effort, these top lineages can deduce whether he's telling the truth or spewing nonsense. However, it did not matter whether he was telling the truth. Some people would instead eliminate a potential threat to

take the risk of being wrong. That's why Emperor Kong was sure his academy would not survive if anyone learned of this conversation.

A deep killing intent flashed deep in his mind, but it dissipated with the same speed. Emperor Kong already knew he was not Wang Wei's match because his intuition immediately warned him of danger after thinking of silencing the latter. Additionally, he has already investigated and knew that Wang Wei had a method to battle a Paragon's Projection.

The Academy currently had no Paragon Arrays since he did not dare install one. That also meant he could not use any assistance to kill Wang Wei. Emperor Kong had a few hidden Paragon Artifacts and Supreme Chaos Artifacts, but those probably won't do much, and they will also reveal his foundation to the parasites, thus accelerating the dissolution of their already thin partnership.

'And even if I could kill him, would I dare?' Emperor Kong thought, lowering his shoulders as he slumped on his chair. Wang Wei was the darling of the Dao Opening Sect, so he knew the latter would not hesitate to eradicate him for killing a disciple with so much potential. Emperor Kong sipped his wine, feeling a little more defeated. This conversation has been a constant blow to his pride and arrogance.

"Fellow Daoist, it's not wise to say these things without any evidence to back them up," Emperor Kong said calmly, already regaining control of his emotions and mind.

"Are you saying I'm speaking nonsense?" Wang Wei chuckled. "Well, maybe you're correct. But there are signs to follow." Wang Wei groaned softly as he enjoyed the wine's taste. Even with the effect, this wine was top-notch due to its taste.

"If not for my appearance, the destiny to end this era should have been yours." Emperor Kong wanted to swear as this man had said another outrageous thing.

"Heavenly Dao's original plan was to use this destiny for you to destroy these parasites and plunder their resources to increase your Academy's foundation. By the time you fulfilled your destiny, you would have been a Paragon, and the Academy would have had a foundation closed and maybe even on par with Overlords.

"Then came the next step of this plan: the Grand Sect Alliance." Emperor Kong's heart again trembled as he remembered a conversation with his two favorite disciples three million years ago.

"The plan was already set in motion in the lower dimension during Lin Fan's Supreme Outlaw Trial," Wang Wei continued, his eyes brighter than the stars and containing the truth of the universe.

"There were two outcomes from this trial: Lin Fan passes, kills Su Ya, and forges enmity with the upper dimension Yin Moon Palace for preventing them from completing their book. Or, he fails, passes his power to Xu Shi, and she inherits his vendetta and eventually kills Su Ya.

"No matter what, your Academy will forge enmity with the Yin Moon Palace, leading to an all-war with the Grand Sect Alliance. Under normal circumstances, you would have no chance of winning against them, but the current era would have provided the perfect opportunity.

"All the Paragons from the Grand Sect Alliance require time to heal from the Ultimate Taboo and cannot immediately return to their peak. With your Paragon Realm strength and the Academy's deep foundation from the parasites, you can eliminate them and finally have the foundation of a true Overlord.

"What's next isn't hard to guess, is it? You only need to work hard and prepare to use your destiny to become a Transcendent Faction."

Wang Wei looked at him with a smile: "Heavenly Dao has laid out everything for you. Aren't you lucky?"

Emperor Kong was speechless. If he previously only believed 40% that Wang Wei was telling the truth, his faith had now increased to more than 70%. He had long determined his academy had inherited an extraordinary destiny. After the conversation with Xu Shi and Lin Fan about Su Ya and their hatred, Emperor Kong thought his destiny was about taking luck from one of the Thirteen Overlords.

However, he never considered eliminating the Grand Sect Alliance; he did not think he would have such power—at least not for a long time. His previous thought was that he would eliminate the Yin Moon Palace, which would weaken the alliance's luck and destiny. As such, he's been planning how they could quietly eliminate Su Ya and even blame another member of the alliance for creating internal strife.

While the alliance was distracted, he would target one of the weaker Overlords and take their spots once his academy reached a certain level. But now, Wang Wei told him he might have to fight the most powerful of the thirteen directly.



"In fact, if you consider Lin Fan's subtle connection to the Chaos Demon Gods, your academy has, well, quite the exciting road ahead," Wang Wei chuckled, not hiding the schadenfreude in his voice.

"Honestly speaking, even if you don't take any of the things I said to heart, your academy's situation is in a terrible spot," Wang Wei continued. "In the eyes of many people, you're considered a traitor — one of the oppressors. Your secret work with the rebellion and the Resentment Purification will buy you many points. Still, if you don't do something else, your academy's reputation will be tarnished by the time the new era arrives.

"Additionally, some people will still consider you a traitor. They'll use this as an excuse to further tarnish your name and reputation before rallying more people to eliminate you."

Emperor Kong knew what people he was talking about: the former academies. All these people were forced to close their doors while he was the only one left open. Such an act already created countless resentment towards him.

'All the top academies are part of the Grand Sect Alliance, or they have a deep connection with it,' Emperor Kong, realizing how deep this "conspiracy" went.

"The best move for you to make to survive the next era is to openly oppose these people and, better yet, kill at least one of them," Wang Wei continued. "So, what do you think, fellow Daoist? Want to work together?"

'Do I even have a choice?' Emperor Kong thought, almost rolling his eyes. He knew the academy's current predicament better than anyone else, and he's been thinking, planning, and waiting for many years to decide their next move. He knew he would have to draw a line between the parasites one day, but Emperor Kong wanted to delay for as long as possible. After all, the moons were still the world's rulers, meaning the world's resources and luck still tilted toward them. He can receive more benefits the longer he preserves their relationship.

Unfortunately, Xun Junyao's actions further muddled the water. Emperor Kong knew that these moons would no longer trust him after what happened, but he still wanted to find a way to prolong their relationship for a while longer. However, with Wang Wei's arrival, he may not have a choice but to act early.

"Fellow Daoist, you've spent so much time trying to convince me," Emperor Kong said as he glanced at Wang Wei. "Aren't you worried that I still will refuse?"

"I'm not," Wang Wei replied calmly. His action was what strategists called an open conspiracy, meaning even if you know it's a plot, you must still do it. A king must be able to bear the weight of the crown; this saying applies to the Academy's current situation. Without sufficient foundation, the destiny of a Transcendent Foundation is a burden to Emperor Kong instead of a blessing.

The latter no longer has the destiny to end this era, so he won't walk the path of killing these parasites and plundering their resources. Wang Wei's words forced Emperor Kong to work together with him or compete against him to see who could kill the most moons as fast as possible.

"If you refuse, then I won't have any guilt in treating you as a pawn. I can use you to distract these moons to increase the success of my plans," Wang Wei said calmly.

Emperor Kong glanced at him from the corner of his eyes. Xu Shi warned him of how scary this man was, and he took her words seriously. But nothing prepared him for when he indeed faced that monster.

## Chapter 1315 Partnership

Emperor Kong sighed: "Fellow Daoist, what do you have in mind?" Emperor Kong relented. Although he did not want to be entangled with this man, he knew he did not have much choice.

Wang Wei smiled: "I don't know much about these people yet to formulate a plan, and a head-on battle is the worst plan possible." After analyzing Blood Dragon's death, Wang Wei realized how difficult it was to kill a Paragon in a direct confrontation. The arrogant dragon would have survived if Xun Junyao had not been strategic and calculated for many variables — including longevity resources and Blood Dragon's Dao Imprint location. His strength would have been drastically weakened, and he might have lost his position as one of the moons, but he would have survived.

Wang Wei knew that it would be useless even if he could kill one of these people after entering the Taboo Realm. Instead, he needed to follow a similar path as Xun Junyao and slowly planned their death.

"So, what's the plan of this alliance?" Emperor Kong asked, almost rolling his eyes.

"You're a scholar; why are you so impatient?" Wang Wei replied. "I have predicted a few things on how these people will react to Blood Dragon's death and came up with a plan that is guaranteed to give us an advantage no matter what. However, this plan can only work once, and I need your help." He summoned a blueprint and showed it to Emperor Kong.

"So, that's why you wanted to work with me," Emperor Kong uttered after seeing the four pillars in the blueprint.

"That's right, So, what do you think?"

"The formation can be improved," Emperor Kong commented before modifying the blueprint.

"It seems one of your sub-Dao is Dao of Array, and your achievement is superb," Wang Wei commented. At a glance, he could tell that Emperor Kong used his Dao — Transformation — as the philosophical core of his Array Path. He probably strives to achieve "all transformation" with his Array Dao.

'He did not fuse Array Dao into his Transformation Dao but used it as a supplement. They work together, forming the perfect synergy. That's a unique path, but what's the purpose of doing this?' It would be better for Emperor Kong to fuse Array Dao with his Transformation Dao, making it more unique and flexible, yet he separated them.

'Is he trying to use the harmony between the two to turn the Array Dao from sub-Dao to primary Dao? If that's true and he succeeds, I'll have to raise my evaluation of him.'

No one can have two primary Daos. Even Chaos Dao cultivators who comprehended many Daos will have one primary Dao: Chaos. However, if Emperor Kong's approach worked, he'd benefit immensely, including acquiring 2 Dao Positions after becoming a peak Paragon. Although Wang Wei doesn't know the actual value of these positions, he knew they would probably be crucial in the Transcendent Realm.

Emperor Kong did not answer his words and continued with the blueprint. Once he finished, the success of their plan rose by 20%.

"I'm glad I chose you as a partner," Wang Wei praised. Although he was going to ask his brilliant wife to help with this formation, now, he might not need to. Could Wu Hong further improve this formation? Of course. However, Emperor Kong's method has already reached the limit of their realm. Wu Hong's improvement would mean they would need a Paragon to set up, and it cannot be

just any Paragon, but someone with sufficient understanding of Array Dao. Wang Wei, and probably, no one in the current era met this standard. Luckily, strength was not the primary source of power in this array.

Emperor Kong might have cared or accepted this compliment if this had happened before, but he was not in the mood for such a thing. "You know this is not enough for your plan to succeed?"

"I know, that's why I need your help to find another [Sage of Merit]," Wang Wei said. "I know someone, but he's only an Emperor and has condensed a first-level Golden Body of Merit. In fact, it would be better if we could find two more Emphyreans with a second-level body."

"This is your plan; why are you asking me?" Emperor Kong asked in annoyance.

"I know you must have a way," Wang Wei rebutted. He had calculated that Emperor Kong had this kind of connection.

"I know two people," Emperor Kong admitted. "Both Emphyreans, but one with a first and the other with a second level Golden Body of Merit."

"That's even better," Wang Wei said. Although he knew Feng Heng would give him face and participate in this plan, his cultivation was too weak and might increase the plan's variable.

"I can convince them to help, but you must bear the karma for their help," Emperor Kong said. These people were [Sages], and Wang Wei's plan was actively putting them in danger. If something went wrong and someone had to bear responsibility, Emperor Kong did not want to be the one. After all, such karma is the kind that can ruin a person's luck. The Death of any [Sage] is not a joke.

"It's fine," Wang Wei replied. He did not care. His Karma Unbound Physique was not a joke. Although the death of a [Sage] was enough even to affect him, there was still some protection. Additionally, he was also a [Sage], granting him another level of security. So, he'd be fine if he did not directly kill or scheme against these sages. In fact, he'd prefer that something went wrong so these parasites could take the blame. Of course, he was not stupid enough to scheme in the back to ensure that happens.

He knew when to mess around and when not to. [Sages] are a protection class, meaning Heavenly Dao does not mess around. Since Wang Wei was not sure to hide his actions under the ladder's noise, he wouldn't do something so stupid.

Emperor Kong looked at him: "Is there anything else?"

'Is this a hint that I'm no longer welcome?' Wang Wei thought, his lips almost twitching. "No, that's it for now."

"That's good," Emperor Kong nodded before handing him a talisman. "Contact me if there is more." The sign that you're no longer welcome was written on this man's face, so Wang Wei could only sigh.

"Well, it's time to take my leave," Wang Wei said as he stood up. "One last thing: Can fellow Daoist give me some more wine." Emperor Kong summoned a space ring that contained 10,000 large jars of the Immortal Dream Wine. This wine did not affect cultivation and was classified as entertainment, making it not as valuable as one would think. Of course, not as valuable is comparing it to whom. Some poor Emphyreans probably cannot buy more than 100 jars.

Wang Wei took the space ring. "Thank you, fellow Daoist, for entertaining me. Say hi to Xu Shi and Lin Fan for me." Emperor Kong watched him and disappeared, and he used his divine sense to ensure he had left before returning to his palace. He sat alone in a dark room, a somber atmosphere enveloping his body.

'When was the last time I felt so powerless and ignorant? It was probably that time.' Emperor Kong suddenly found himself lost in his memories.

"Who...who are you?" asked a young boy about 12 years old, looking at the elderly man before him, dressed in a black robe with a sage-like atmosphere and holding a ruler. The boy was using all the strength in his weak and thin body to prevent himself from falling on the floor or running away screaming.

"I will be your teacher from now on," said the elderly man. "You can call me Master Shang."

"Are you a ghost?" The young Kong Meng said, his face pale. "Do you want to use my yang energy?"

"I'm not a ghost — I'm the spirit of a Saint Artifact," Master Shang explained.

Kong Meng finally calmed down after realizing he was not going to die. "Saint Artifact? Are you talking about the Saints I've read about? Are they so magical?"

"No, I'm talking about cultivators."

"Oh."

Master Shang looked at this body. Anyone who heard about cultivation would be excited, but what's with this boy's response?

"What do you say? Boy Kong Li, do you want to be my apprentice?"

Kong Li became silent: "Sir, the books say that a master chooses a student just as much as a student chooses a teacher."

Master Shang smiled. He appreciated the young boy's demeanor. "Those words are true, so if you have any concerns, you can ask me."

"Why me?" Kong Li did not think there was anything special about him.

"I've watched you in the past few years," Master Shang said. "You have no money to learn how to read, so you secretly listen to Scholar Wang's lessons by climbing through the back walls. Your mind is sharp, and you quickly learn the characters, but had no money to buy paper and ink to practice calligraphy, so you use tree branches and practice in the dirt and sand."

"Due to your poor background, no one wants to take you as a disciple, but that did not dissuade you. You help scholars with their baggage, clean their houses, and repair their clothes and shoes just for an opportunity to learn. You save every penny you make, even forsaken meals, just to buy books."

"Those people looked at you with disdain, beat you up, cursed at you, and even spit at you, thinking your efforts were in vain and you would amount to nothing. But you never give up. Your desire to pursue knowledge and improve yourself is something many of the sages you've read about do not have."

"Those qualities are why I chose you."

Kong Li had tears in his eyes. He was an orphan, and before dying, he promised his adopted mother that he would become a scholar to bring glory to their family. However, no one believed him. No one was willing to help or give him a chance. Even worse, no one acknowledges his efforts.

"Disciple Kong Li has seen the master." He knelt on the ground, bowing deeply.

"Good boy." Master Shang waved his hand to lift him up. "From now on, you're my disciple, and I'll give you the courtesy name Meng. I'll choose an auspicious day to properly worship heaven and earth so you can officially enter my school."

## Chapter 1316 Wake Up

The young Kong Meng bowed to an altar representing Heaven and Earth before bowing to his teacher, Master Shang. He did serve the latter tea, concluding the master-disciple relationship. Master Shang nodded in satisfaction, while Kong Meng had a wide grin.

"So, master, what are you going to teach me?"

Master Shang did not mean the latter's slightly impetuous actions. On the contrary, he had always admired the boy's desire to pursue knowledge. 'I must ensure he's not led astray by the cultivation world and starts to pursue power instead of knowledge,' Master Shang reminded himself.

"Let's start with a brief history of our school," Master Shang uttered. "My master was a young scholar named Cang Yu. He was an upright and righteous man, loved by the people and the king. Unfortunately, officialdom is cruel; no one could not tolerate my master's 'rigid' views and conduct. So, countless ministers worked together to frame him.'

Kong Meng had a look of indignation. How could these people do such a thing to a righteous scholar? Is the world so cruel? No, Kong Meng had seen the world's cruelty, but he thought this resulted from poverty in this small town. He thought a place like the dynasty's capital would be a bright place full of sages and men worthy of respect.

Master Shang noticed his apprentice's emotional fluctuations. Truthfully, he told him their school's origin to eliminate this young boy's naivety. He even plans to take him around the world to truly experience the darkness of the world. Of course, he'll also show him the light.

"As I said, the king loved my master," Master Shang continued. "So, he secretly let him escape. The master was blessed by fate and soon had a fortunate encounter and started his cultivation journey. He retreated for decades, hoping to return to the dynasty with newfound strength and rectify his name."

"As he should, Kong Meng nodded with a clenched fist.

"Unfortunately, by the time he returned, the king had fallen, and the dynasty had already collapsed with countless warlords fighting for powers. The master wanted to support the remains of the royal family to re-establish the dynasty, but another competing group had already massacred them."

Master Shang sipped his tea, taking this moment to allow his young apprentice to digest his words.

"The master felt lost, so he returned to the cultivation world. However, that side was also not peaceful. The human race and the Myriad Emperor World as a whole had suffered tremendously at the hands of the Devil Race, leaving the Cultivation World full of hatred, resentment, and cruelty.

"The master grew ambitious, wishing to use the Literary Way's ideas of rule, etiquette, righteousness, and respect to establish peace throughout the world." Master Shang secretly shook his head. His master's ambitions were too grand. In fact, he was extremely conservative with his words. His master directly wanted the Literary Way to dominate the world, even overwhelming Taoism, the Sword Path, and many other schools of thought.

"Sadly, his talent could not bear his ambitions. He died during his Supreme Realm Tribulation."

"Master, don't worry. I promise to fulfill the grand teacher's ambitions," Kong Meng promised.

"No need for that," Master Shang said. He knew that even if his apprentice could become an Eternal Emperor, he could not make the Literary Way the dominant school of thought in the world. Such a goal requires countless generations of success; even then, the chances of success were not high.

"You can form your own path, goal, and ambition," Master Shang said. "As for how far you can go? That'll depend on you and fate."

"I understand," Kong Meng nodded.



Master Shang waved his hand to summon three things: two books and a bamboo bookbag.

"These two techniques will be the foundation of your cultivation journey," Master Shang said. "The first is called [Measuring the World With Your Feet]. It's a body-refining technique that can draw Earth Energy from the ground and temper your body; you only need to walk. The more you walk, the more energy you can gather, and the more powerful your body will become. Sadly, it's incomplete, but maybe you can finish it."

"I'll try my best," Kong Meng nodded.

"The second one is related to this bamboo bag," Master Shang continued. "This technique is called [The Weight of Knowledge]. It's a unique technique of our Literary School that combines cultivation with weapon refining."

Master Shang pointed at the bookbag. "The technique will allow you to fuse condensed Righteous Qi and fuse it with your Origin Qi. Additionally, it will also convert the power of [Knowledge] into a tangible force to nourish the bookbag. The more you know, the more powerful of a weapon the bag will become, and one day, you may use it as a Proving Dao Artifact or a Luck Condensing Artifact."

Master Shang saw the confusion in his young disciple's eyes, realizing the latter knew nothing about the cultivation world. "First, remember these techniques, and we'll start training tomorrow."

The next day, Master Shang and Kong Meng started their journey. Kong Meng had the bookbag on his back, reading a book while walking. He was also breathing in a strange manner as he walked, and if someone of decent cultivation observed him, they would have discovered his breathing was following a certain rhythm of the earth, allowing him to draw energy from it.

"Master."

"Is there something you don't understand?"

"It's hard for me to be walking, reading, breathing, and visualizing," Kong Meng said with a wry smile. He did not want to complain since this was a rare opportunity, but such a daunting task was too much for him.

Master Shang was slightly embarrassed. This was his first disciple, so he was not good at this kind of thing.

"Let's do this. While we're on the road, you focus on tempering your body. At night, when we rest, you can read, and before going to bed, you can visualize the Sages. It would be best for you to condense your Righteous Qi as soon as possible. I can then teach you a method of dividing your mind."

"I'll try my best."

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Emperor Kong woke up from his memories and sighed. In his life, he has felt powerless four times. The first time was when he first met his wife and accidentally injured her. He tried to apologize, but she was not having it, making him feel powerless. The second time was after entering the Saint Realm. He became arrogant and tried to use Righteous Qi to purify the Blood Earth. His action resulted in an accident that almost eradicated Master Shang. He took action and nourished the latter's spirit with his law, even cracking his Dao Tree in the process. Many historians say that Emperor Kong was not talented enough, so he needed Heavenly Dao's help to give him the final push to become an Eternal.

But that was not the complete truth. The truth is that Emperor Kong's foundation was injured after he cracked his Dao Tree to prevent Master Shang from dying. Although he later did everything he could to fix it, his foundation was always imperfect and thus needed the extra boost. He only completely fixed the problem after experiencing Dao Re-establishment.

'The third time I felt this powerless was when Bai Han started hating me due to miscommunication, and the fourth time was today,' Emperor Kong thought. He suddenly felt outraged.

Boom!

His right hand crushed the table next to him, creating a small black hole in the process. His aura was grand and agitating, making the room tremble under his pressure.

"Master!"

"Hmm?" Emperor Kong finally noticed his two new favorite disciples were in the room. He sighed: "I'm sorry you had to see me like this."

"What exactly happened with your conversation with Wang Wei to have you so riled up?" Lin Fan asked.

"Nothing to be concerned about. Don't worry about it," Emperor Kong replied. Lin Fan could tell something was wrong but also detected that it may not be wise to talk about this now. Meanwhile, Xu Shi frowned. She had seen this kind of look countless times before.

The anger and frustration of having your pride and arrogance trampled on, the subtle fear mixed with respect and reverence, followed by envy and jealousy — she'd seen countless times in the Heavenly Court.

She sighed: "Master, the last thing you can do right now is to let Wang Wei's rhythm affect you."

Emperor Kong looked at her.

"I've seen him doing it countless times. He'll use his words to beat you down, suppress your arrogance, and corner you until you agree with him or he destroys you.

"The trick to his methods is the mindset and rhythm. He has conditioned your mind to work in a certain way, making you overlook things and, more importantly, make you predictable. What you need to do now is break the mold he placed you in.

"Replay your conversation from a bystander standpoint. Analyze every word, action, micro expression, intonation, and even the way he breathes. Analyze everything to see if you miss something and break away from the shackles he placed in your mind."

## Chapter 1317 Compensation

Emperor Kong felt a jolt in his mind after hearing these words. He felt embarrassed that his apprentice had to remind him, but he was glad she did. He exhaled deeply and nodded in approval to her before closing his eyes.

Xu Shi sighed in relief after seeing this. She knows how capable her master is. With his intelligence, he was more than capable of competing with Wang Wei; he might even win some battles. Since the lower dimension, she's been studying [Dao Overlords], trying to understand who they were and what made them so terrifying.

The conclusion she deduced was the [Outlaw Trial]. On the surface, this trial was to test whether these people were worthy to wield these innately potent Daos, but that was far from the truth. However, Xu Shi did not believe these words. The idea of wielding laws is only a bait Grand Dao used to attract these overlords. Most of them are arrogant and prideful, thus usually choosing these "super" Daos.

The core of the [Outlaw Trial] is to mold these people into the monster they are. Under the pressure of death and having no choice but to rely on their intelligence to survive, the Dao Lords and Overlords are slowly and methodically transformed into the ultimate schemers, strategizers, and manipulators as they fight for their lives in a chess game against Heavenly Dao.

To have the slightest chance at survival, they must be flawless. They must learn to think countless steps ahead, break the shackles in their minds, become capable of thinking outside the box, attain mastery over controlling their emotions, know their weaknesses—physically and mentally—and learn how to prevent others from taking advantage of their flaws.

According to Xu Shi, many Dao Lords or Dao Overlord Seeds exist in the world. These people have the potential to pass the trial and might even have been on the list of people that Grand Dao planned to lure and train. However, these people made different choices, choosing non-outlaw Daos. His master was one of them.

These seeds can become as terrifying as the Dao Overlords without the trial. However, this usually requires an extremely long period of training. Without the trial, they must mold themselves into that monster. Of course, the process was not easy—especially the one about removing the cognitive blockade of the mind. Most of these seeds might spend the rest of their lives without succeeding or barely succeeding. Compared to the direct advantage of passing the trial, the slow and steady approach was less effective.

Lin Fan looked at his wife. He knew she was studying Wang Wei's behavior, but he did not expect her to know him so "intimately." He gave her a look that said why do you know so much about another man. Xu Shi rolled his eyes, so Lin Fan changed tactics. He used his facial expression to indicate to her that he was emotionally hurt and that she should heal his bruising heart.

Unfortunately, he only received a pinch and a warning not to play around. However, Lin Fan could not be defeated so easily. He must make a big deal out of this. Was he jealous? Absolutely not. He knew what kind of person his wife was, so he trusted her. However, this was a rare opportunity for

him to get some action, so he would not waste it. However, he also understood this was indeed not the best time and place, so he gave his wife one of those looks that only couples understood; he did not hide his intention.

Xu Shi replied with a look that said they would talk later, and Lin Fan chuckled internally. Since she did not give him a direct no, he had already won half of the battle. His future looked bright.

Emperor Kong remained still for three days, and when he opened his eyes, they released an intense light brighter than a sun storm. He had figured out what he had missed, what Wang Wei was planning. 'It all comes down to his greedy nature,' Emperor Kong thought.

According to him, Heavenly Dao should have chosen him as the [Son of Era] to eliminate these parasites, which would also serve as a way to enhance the foundation and background of the Academy. However, since Wang Wei was now the destined one, Emperor Kong's path was cut off. Without the resources from these parasites, it would be suicide for him to fight against the Grand Sect Alliance. So, this cannot be allowed unless Heavenly Dao plans to abandon him and not choose him as one of the Transcendent Factions. Would Heavenly Dao abandon him?

'The answer is no,' Emperor Kong thought. 'Assuming what Wang Wei said is true, I was chosen because Heavenly Dao wants one [Academy] to be one of the factions with a Transcendent Foundation. So, why choose me — the upstart — over the others? It's because I haven't been corrupted.'

There are many academies throughout the world, but the most powerful ones have already joined the Grand Sect Alliance. Meanwhile, the rest have formed different levels of alliances to support themselves. However, such behaviors are not why Heavenly Dao has a problem with them. The key to the issue is these people have lost their essence. Their academies now have countless restrictions on whom to teach — primarily racial limitations.

And when it comes to regular and loose cultivators, these academies will invite them but will not teach them wholeheartedly. Instead, they'll focus most of their resources on nobles, people with high backgrounds, exceptional bloodlines, etc. The purpose of the Academy was to increase access to high-level training and resources for cultivators, thus lowering the influence of these sects and clans. So, there is no way for Heavenly Dao to choose these people after they've lost their essence.

'If Heavenly Dao wants to continue its plan, it must compensate me for losing the resources from killing the parasites,' Emperor Kong analyzed. 'And that's what Wang Wei is after. He wants a share of that compensation.'

Emperor Kong frowned:

'Maybe this is not a bad thing. Heavenly Dao is not a charity. If it will compensate me without having to do anything, I'll owe it an immense karmic debt.' It would be different if Emperor Kong was the chosen one and had to work for the resources by eliminating these parasites — which would also be considered an act of service for Heavenly Dao.

'Maybe I can draw Wang Wei in to share the karmic debt,' Emperor Kong thought before immediately canceling this idea. 'Based on how easily he accepted the karmic debt involving the two [Sages], he must have an excellent way to block karma. If I try to use him, I might lose resources while still owing a major debt.'

An intense light flashed in Emperor Kong's eyes.

'In that case, let's just owe the debt. Anyway, this is my home, and paying the debt is also a way to strengthen the world.' People do not want to owe Heavenly Dao karma because the latter might dangle it over their heads, never asking for repayment. However, Emperor Kong was not worried about being able to repay it.

After analyzing Wang Wei's words, he realized the Eternal Ascension World's Heavenly Dao was highly ambitious. It probably wishes to acquire the title of [Strongest Chaos World]. With such ambitions, there will be plenty of opportunities to repay the debt. Additionally, other worlds will not stand by and watch as this world becomes increasingly more powerful — especially after seeing how capable it was during the Second Origin War.

Emperor Kong looked in the distance and uttered: "A bright mirror can reflect anything — even the secrecy and hiddenness of fate." An intense Righteous Qi gathered above the academy to form an invisible mirror that shone its light on every corner of this enormous city. The mirror's light had a direct target — people's Fate Line. It observed and kept a watch on everything.

A few people noticed this change, were shocked, and readied to defend themselves. However, after noticing the Dean's breath, they stopped themselves.

'After taking over Blood Dragon's territory, Wang Wei's Fate Shadow Guard should have expanded. This method should make it harder for them to infiltrate the academy,' Emperor Kong thought. He then finally focused on his disciples: "Shi'er, thank you very much." Her words not only changed his mindset on how to deal with Wang Wei but also how to deal with other powerful opponents with high-level intellects.

"Master, I'm only doing my job as a disciple."

Emperor Kong smiled; "That's why you're my favorite."

"Master!" Lin Fan complained. He used to be the favorite.

"It's not like you didn't know this," Emperor Kong waved his hand before glancing at his son. "Why are you jittery?"

Bai Han — complaining in his mind that he was the son and should be the favorite — woke up after hearing his father's words. "Madam Shun came again; this time, she said she won't leave until you decide."

Emperor Kong groaned softly. He had just dealt with one headache, but another arrived at his door.

## Chapter 1318 Always A Step Ahead

Madam Shun is from the [Sunshine Pavilion] — she's the mistress, controlling all its power. However, despite its poetic name, the pavilion is, in fact, a chain of brothels that target cultivators — including Emperors and Emphyreans. All the pavilion's women — and men — cultivate Yin-Yang Dao or a Source Technique about Dual Cultivation.

Cultivators can visit when they need some help with their cultivation. If they pay for the lowest Tier 1 service, they can dual cultivate with a partner of their choice, but only through holding hands. Such service is crucial to cultivators below rank ten as they can use it to break through bottlenecks, but it can only provide some cultivation bonus to Great Emperors and other paths.

Tier 2 services involve physical intercourse, and the effects are even better. It's possible to increase a person's cultivation by a few percent if they have just become Great Emperors. Tier 3 services involved women with their Primordial Yin and Yang intact, making the process even more potent. That's not to mention other benefits like tempering the body and soul.

Tier 4 and 5 services involved people with special physiques, with the difference being that Tier 5 girls also have their Primordial Yin and Yang preserved.

In the cultivation world, there is something called a [Cauldron Physique], a unique physique with excellent dual cultivation properties. Devil Cultivators love this type of physique as it is the best way to strengthen their foundation, and other cultivators love it because it's the best way to break through bottlenecks. Of course, women despise it because this physique primarily exists in women, and the fate of the "cauldron" is always terrible.

The Sunshine Pavilion provided cauldrons but at an exuberant price. All their prices are beyond expensive, but Tier 4 reaches another stratosphere, and that's because the price also involves numeration to ensure the owner of the Cauldron Physique can recuperate. Well, at least, that's their explanation of why the price is so expensive, but people know better. [Cauldrons] have terrible fates because others forcefully plunder their Primordial Yin, injuring their bodies and souls and even destroying their cultivation foundation. However, the Sunshine Pavilion used a harmonious Yin-Yang Duel Cultivation Technique, meaning the Cauldron Physiques benefit the owner instead of harming them. So, everyone with some knowledge knows their so-called price is bullshit.

Unfortunately, many people rushed to utilize their services despite knowing this. Most people's talent cannot take them far after becoming immortal, so after being stuck in one place for millions of yuan epochs, many people will pay the price of an increase of 1% in their cultivation. Even people with talent and resources will suffer from bottlenecks, and sometimes, using the Sunshine Pavilion's services might be cheaper than the alternative methods of their factions.

Emperor Kong has dealt with the Sunshine Pavilion, not because he used their services but because they are also one of the largest spy networks in the world. When men are in their most "relaxed" state, they can easily open their mouths and spill information. Meanwhile, the women who use the pavilion's services are often secretive about it due to societal pressure, making it easier to get information about them. Lastly, the pavilion has a system in which they can offer discounts if someone provides them with valuable information.

With all their branches scattered worldwide, the Sunshine Pavillion is among the best in the information business, so Emperor Kong has dealt with them. However, his problem with Madam Shun is not her business or some kind of contradiction that happened between them. She wanted to open a Yin-Yang School in the Academy.

Her request immediately sent the academy into chaos. Some elders agreed as they know that Yin-Yang Dao is one of the supreme paths of cultivation no matter which form it is practiced. Meanwhile, others vehemently denied this request, believing such a method of practicing Yin-Yang Dao contradicts many of the core ideologies about the Literary Way. They've been arguing for more than 50 million years since Madam Shun made that request, and the only way to end this debate is for the Dean to decide. Emperor Kong has no problem opening the Yin-Yang School. Since his path



is to enlighten all sentient beings, he would not exclude anyone. His hesitation is because of the true owner of the Sunshine Pavilion.

'I don't want to deal with that crazy woman,' Emperor Kong sighed, feeling a headache coming. Wang Wei was a problem, but he was still a reasonable person, but that woman was not. She could attack the academy without any reason; it would be a nightmare if she had an actual reason.

'If I don't make a choice soon, that will be reason enough for her to act against me or the academy.' Emperor Kong once again felt frustrated. He could not beat her, and he might even suffer terribly if he angered her.

"Alright, I'll deal with her."

"Master, what are you going to do?" Lin Fan asked. He knew how complicated the issue of Madam Shun was.

"I'll tell her we can start the Yin-Yang School in the academy's branches as a test trial," Emperor Kong said. "That should satisfy her for now while also preventing that crazy woman from having any direct connection to the main branch."

Emperor Kong sighed as he flew away. He decided to spend a few days with Master Shang to isolate himself from the world. This should soothe his mind. Then, he'll go on a vacation with his wife.

...

Wang Wei was walking around Origin Seal City with a candy stick in his hand, enjoying himself. He enjoyed the overall feel of this city as the atmosphere perfectly blended a mortal city with a cultivation city — that's how he was about to buy this candy from a stall on the street. Moreover, he didn't know if it was because of his future wife's terrific standards. The food in this place was beyond excellent. Every restaurant he visited in the past few days had its own unique cuisine, techniques, and recipes.

"Hmm?" Wang Wei stopped as he suddenly sensed something. He looked in the distance, and his vision penetrated endless distance as he saw a bright mirror above the academy's city. "Have you figured it out?" He shook his head. "I'm starting to regret making friends with that little girl, Xu Shi." Wang Wei did not mind despite his words since that's how most friendships in the cultivation

world — especially relationships with people of different factions or lineages. The lineage's benefit must come above everything, including friendship.

"Not a bad move, old man," Wang Wei commented. "However, this is not enough to stop me." He raised his hand to condense a few karmic threads, mainly Emperor Kong, Lin Fan, Xu Shi, and the lower dimension Academy. Emperor Kong owed him much more karma than the latter admitted due to everything he did for the academy in the lower dimension.

So, what Wang Wei plans to do is to force him to repay that karma, or he will suffer a potent and immediate backlash that not only damages his soul but also affects his luck. And what's the best way to repay that karmic debt? Of course, it's from that compensation from Heavenly Dao. Wang Wei manipulated the threads to do his bidding, ensuring Emperor Kong would not notice anything until he received the compensation. By then, he'll have no opportunity to delay and must pay immediately.

'Heavenly Dao is planning for Transcendent Factions, but there must be a difference between them,' Wang Wei sneered. He had no personal grudge against Emperor Kong or the academy but must ensure his faction's supremacy in the upcoming era. After all, in this world, more power means more resources, so Wang Wei — who always knew this — never stopped striving for more power and resources for the sect.

Wang Wei bit his candy, enjoying the unique sweetness with the ability to improve his mood. If not for his cultivation level, this thing might affect his state of mind, which is truly impressive. This city was truly remarkable. Even the candy maker had some achievements in the Dao of Cooking.

'I'm starting to wonder whether I bragged too much that day,' Wang Wei thought. With such an impressive palate, could he create a dish that makes her swallow those words back? He sighed, feeling his future was bleak.

Wang Wei headed toward the next restaurant. However, he did not take a few steps when something landed from the sky before him. He saw a beautiful woman in golden metallic armor from shoulder to toe, looking like a Valkyrie from Earth's myth.

"What can I do for you, young lady?" Wang Wei asked, already having a prediction.

"I've been ordered to hand you this token and a message: 'You've wasted enough time.'"

Wang Wei's lips twitched. He knew the suffering that awaited him, so he's been delaying for the past few days, trying to enjoy himself as much as possible. However, it seems this future wife cannot wait to beat him up.

Wang Wei waved his hand, and the token flew into his palm. The Valkyrie woman did not say anything else and flew away. Meanwhile, Wang Wei sighed before activating the token, disappearing from the middle of the street.

## Chapter 1319 Arrange Marriage

Wang Wei floated above the air, looking at this new environment. "Is this the Origin Seal Continent? This place is odd." As soon as he stepped into this world, he found his mind clear, and inspiration about different Daos flashed in his mind. He scanned this place with his divine sense. In terms of size, this continent was approximately 100 times larger than the lower dimension, which is considered small by the upper dimension's standard.

"It's extremely beneficial to cultivate in this place, but the reason for that is not an abundance of Dao Qi," Wang Wei muttered. The concentration of Dao Qi in this place was extraordinary, but it was not the main reason why it was so special. Wang Wei teleported to a forest nearby and started to play with the grass.

"No way," he muttered as he examined the trees, rivers, mountains, and animals. He then scanned the continent a second time, observing everything on a more profound level.

"What a brilliant method!" he praised. Everything on this continent was made of runes. From the grass to the trees, the clouds, the rain, the air, volcanoes, the ocean — everything was made from different runes, making this place the holy place for professionals. Just by observing a single tree in the Origin Seal Continent, these people can gain a deep understanding of [Wood Runes], [Vitality Runes], [Life Runes], and many more.

'Even the animals are composed of runes,' Wang Wei studied. 'She used [Essence Rune] to create the body, [Qi Rune] to give the body the life energy and other energies for the body to function, and finally, the [Spirit] Rune] created things like the mind, spirit, and soul.'

Such a method can be described as true creation, especially compared to the cheap Grandmist Wheel method. Wu Hong used her Dao to control other Daos, which in this case is Creation Dao. With such a method, it's no wonder she could compete for status with the Skill Dao Association.

'Is this a microcosm of the Eternal Ascension World? No, maybe the Chaos Universe?' Wang Wei immediately checked after having this idea. His eyes saw a gray river that ran through every fabric of this continent; this river was something he was familiar with, yet it was also different.

'A River of Fate created with Runes,' Wang Wei thought. It is common knowledge that [Runes] is the language of Grand Dao. But it was after today that he realized what these words truly meant. Wang Wei checked, and as expected, he saw the River of Time, a Source Qi Space, Heavenly Dao, and even Primordial Chaos — which surrounded this continent and served as a barrier or protection — and they were all created with runes.

"Wait, where is Samsara?" Wang Wei muttered. He searched, and he found it. "Did she steal power from the Yama Kings?" He could tell the Samsara of this continent was operating like any others. In other words, anyone who enters this continent will be under the jurisdiction of Wu Hong's Samsara instead of the ones controlled by Grand Dao and the Samsara Cardinal.

"I knew she was capable, but this is something else," Wang Wei sighed. "More importantly, she's so ballsy. Damn it, why did I find myself aroused? Has it really been that long, or have I developed a new kink for capable women? I guess it isn't new."

Wang Wei shook his head to remove these complicated thoughts from his mind. He focused on the Origin Seal Continent. This was the perfect place for him to retreat. By studying this place's runes, he can significantly improve his Fate Domination Dao. As he was thinking about how best to utilize this new resource, the token he received from the Valkyrie vibrated, sending him a message of where to go next.

Wang Wei sighed before flying up, breaking through the barrier around this continent and entering the artificially created primordial chaos. Through the token, he soon found a magnificent palace that shocked Wang Wei to his core. The white palace was so beautiful and grand that he only thought of one thing: 'How rich is this woman?'

He had recognized many of the materials used to build this thing, but many of them were things he did not recognize — probably from other Chaos Worlds.

'The palace itself is probably a Paragon Artifact, and the formation engraved on them gives me the goosebump,' Wang Wei thought. He felt a deep sense of danger as he glanced at that palace. He also realized why these parasites never messed with this place. That artifact alone is probably enough to send all of them into Limbo.

The token served as an entrance pass, so Wang Wei soon found himself before a door. He rearranged his clothes, checked his hair, and straightened his posture before walking: "Future wife, have you missed me?"

The room immediately entered a state of awkwardness. Wu Hong — who was somberly looking through the window — glanced at him for a few seconds before continuing her stargazing. Wang Wei's lips twitched. 'I didn't do anything, right? I even boldly but subtly showed her the state of my karmic line to prove my loyalty.' He secretly sighed. Even dating back on Earth was not this hard. He walked next to her and also star-gaze.

The sight before him was indeed beautiful as it showed the birth of a universe with all its stars, planets, galaxies, and many cosmic wonders. Then, the universe dies before restarting. The entire process takes place in just a few minutes. In other words, these two used the creation and destruction of a universe as something to star-gaze, something to appreciate.

After watching this scene for the third time, Wang Wei said: "Come on, use your words. We are all adults, so if you have an issue, let's discuss it." A common dating advice on the internet from Wang Wei's previous life was: communication is vital in any relationship. That is indeed sound advice, but how many people can effectively use it? Not to mention that this advice rarely mentions that knowing how to communicate is as important, if not more important, than communicating itself.

"Something has been on my mind," Wu Hong said calmly. "Why did you accept the relationship so easily? It's apparent to anyone that you, of all people, would reject any form of [Fated Love]. Yet, from her memories, besides some insignificant reservations, you quickly accepted that marriage."

Wu Hong looked at him:

"It can't be because of 'love at first sight,' rational people like us don't buy into such a thing. So, why did you do it? Since you've accepted it once, why not accept it a second time?"

"That's an interesting question and one I've thought about a lot before," Wang Wei replied. "And the answer is much simpler than you think. Before the Supreme Outlaw Trial, my relationship was pretty good. She was like a doting mother, and I was like a rebellious child who did not want to follow in their parent's footsteps or arrangement for the future."

"What a strange analogy," Wu Hong said with a frown.

"I know, but it's the best way to explain it," Wang Wei continued. "Continue."

"After the trial, well, my mind was more open, and I was even more rebellious. Then, things went sour after learning about my status as a Fate Seed. Before those events, I saw our situation as an arranged marriage.

"My loving and doting mother — Fate — chose a wonderful woman for me, and after meeting her and seeing how beautiful, compassionate, capable, and compatible we were, I accepted it. Of course, I'm still the rebellious son. Just because I accepted it once doesn't mean I'll accept it a second time. Then, our relationship worsened, and there was no longer room for reconciliation."

Wu Hong took a moment to process these words: "Such a strange way to explain the situation, yet it still makes sense," she nodded. "So, did you feel any instant connection after meeting her?"

"Not all," Wang Wei shook his head. "On the contrary, I feel our relationship is an ill-fated one. That girl will suffer immensely in her life if she gets with me."

"Oh?" Wu Hong felt he was not saying these words without any basis. "Tell me more." She motioned for him to sit down before serving tea. Wang Wei felt relaxed, and it was not only because the tea was refreshing but also because the tension in the room had dissipated.

So, he told his future wife everything that happened during his meeting with Xun Junyao, including his conjectures about his transcendent ability to influence the chessboard. He also told her about his conversation with Emperor Kong, mainly his conjecture about [Transcendent Factions], and that the Academy was chosen for one of the spots.

"What do you think?"

"About what specifically?" Wu Hong asked. He had said many things, and some she needed time to digest.

"Let's start with recruiting Xun Junyao," Wang Wei answered.

"I had similar thoughts before," Wu Hong admitted. "However, she had trouble trusting people, and because those two had their eyes on her, I never brought it up before. But, as you said, I'm considered half her master, so it should not be an issue for her to join me — if she wants to."

Although Xun Junyao had the potential to enter the next realm, Wu Hong would not force her or use emotional manipulation to trick her into her faction — she disdains doing such a thing. However, she will indeed extend an invitation.

"A promise of the Perfect Foundation Method should increase your chances," Wang Wei nodded. "However, do you think the path of perfection is truly the best for her?"

"Huh? What's with the sudden change?" The last time they talked, they agreed that the [Path of Perfection] was, well, perfect for Xun Junyao.

"I've been thinking about this since our conversation," Wang Wei said. "People often believe that [perfection] is a taboo because it is the quickest and easiest way to transcend, and it's also a way to tap into Grand Dao's power. But what if things were not so simple?

"It's one thing to achieve a [perfect body] or [perfect Dao], but you should understand what it means to have a [perfect mind]?"

"Cold, indifferent, calculating, and more importantly — no emotions," Wu Hong replied.

"Yes, in the path of perfection, human emotions are a liability, so people on this path will either eliminate it or suppress it to the lowest level possible," Wang Wei nodded. "However, these people are also the most ruthless. They will do anything to achieve their goals and have no bottom line."

Wang Wei considered himself a ruthless person, and his path of absolute freedom required him to have no moral restrictions. However, there are certain things he would never do, for example, forcing himself on someone else. He just needs to know he has the power to do it without any mortal guilt without doing it.

"These people don't care about friends, families, and loved ones. Everything can be abandoned for their pursuit of the Dao. It's fine if something like Grand Dao or Heavenly Dao, who is the consciousness that controls the rules of reality, but if cultivators had a similar mindset..."

"They will turn Heaven and Earth upside down, maybe even destroy it to achieve their goals," Wu Hong finished, and her eyes lit up. "That's why it's a taboo. Grand Dao wants people to achieve transcendence, but he doesn't want them to do it in an extreme manner that may endanger the Chaos Universe."

"Exactly."

Wu Hong sighed: "I understand Grand Dao's point of view, but the path of transcendence is already difficult to traverse. On top of everything else, rules limit how we operate."

"That's why, in the end, cultivators will revolt against Heaven and Earth," Wang Wei did not say Grand Dao but implied it. The two of them became quiet for a few seconds. This short conversation revealed the trend of the entire Chaos Universe. Peak Paragons will not accept there are certain things they cannot do to reach the pinnacle of the world, and this is even more so for Half-Step Transcendents. Considering that their strength means the rules no longer limit them, it's foreseeable how much chaos the world will be plunged into as Grand Dao tries to suppress and restrict these people, and they try to fight back.

"Let's not talk about that for now," Wu Hong said. She sensed that their conversation might soon be sensed and be warned. "However, without the path of perfection, Xun Junyao's future will not be as bright." Then, a look of realization dawned on her as she glanced at Wang Wei.

"Yin-Yang — Your Dao also included Freedom, so she can follow your example and walk the path of [Imperfect Perfection] — that's a path with more potential. No, better yet, the path [Emotional Perfection]."

"Emotional Perfection? In that case, she would need to change her Dao to Six Emotion Seven Desires or focus on spiritual practice."

"That's not a problem," Wu Hong answered. "Once she perfects her state of mind, she'll realize her Copy Dao is not the best fit for her. I'll then suggest she switches her primary Dao."

Wang Wei nodded. Switching Primary Dao is a dangerous thing since the cultivator will need to reforge their Dao Imprints, change their Dao Body and [Awakening], transform their soul, and lastly, their cultivation realm might drop — unless they cultivate a sub-Dao to the same level of their primary Dao before switching.



"Well, we've laid a path for her, but it's up to her whether she chooses to walk on it," Wang Wei said. No matter how much they plan or how extraordinary their ideas are, it's up to Xun Junyao to decide.

"That's true."

"Let's not talk about her anymore. What do you think about Emperor Kong?" Wang Wei asked.

"He's indeed a lucky individual," Wu Hong admitted, not hiding her jealousy like Wang Wei.

"Oh? You never found a Wonder of Heaven and Earth?" Wang Wei figured if someone were lucky enough to get such a thing, it would have been his future wife.

"Only two appeared during the previous era, and they were all before I ascended," Wu Hong explained. "And I've never found anything during my travels. Well, I did find a few who have already been used, but as you know, those are no longer wonders."

"What happened to those two?" Wang Wei asked. Although he had read the historical records, he still asked since she might have known more than the sect had given him.

"A few people used the first one to give birth to Dao Children, while the other disappeared. No one knows who took it and even what it did."

"Do you think the Dusk Emperor took it?" Wang Wei asked with bright eyes.

"You think that's how they became a Boundless without following the Eternal Path?"

"That's one of the most feasible explanations."

"You may be right that they used a wonder, but it was definitely not that one," Wu Hong explained.

"They didn't tell you? I thought you guys were friends."

"Do you tell your friends all your deepest secrets?" Wu Hong rebutted.

"True," Wang Wei nodded. However, he suddenly felt that the Dusk Emperor did not use a wonder. After all, these things become useless after a certain amount of use, so there is no point in keeping it a secret. And if, by chance, there were still a few uses of that wonder, the Dusk Emperor should have used them for her family or close friend or sold them for a high price.

"Do you have any theory on who took that wonder?" Wang Wei returned the topic to the Golden Era's Wonders.

"Most people now believe the Primogenitor Devil is the one who took it," Wu Hong calmly explained.

"Is this how he acquired that artifact? No, that can't be right. He told me it was a secret trial he discovered in Primordial Chaos."

"That wonder was probably related to the soul," Wu Hong explained. "From what Yan Hai told me, the Devil Primogenitor was besieged by more than a dozen Primals and hundreds of peak Paragons, but he survived and even won countless victories."

"Damn, is the difference between the two realms so vast?" With just a broken treasure, the Devil Primogenitor remained undefeated in the face of all these unparalleled genesis. "Wait, his soul — oh, I understand."

"Yes, his soul should have collapsed after using that artifact more than 5 times, but he fought in over a dozen battles. That wonder must have broken the limits on his soul and probably allowed him to acquire some characteristic of [Half-Step Transcendent]."

Wang Wei sipped his tea. "When I talked with the Devil Primogenitor, he revealed he was a pawn in Grand Dao's plan to lure Qiyuan into starting the Second Origin War and push the Chaos Universe into the age of transcendence."

Although Qiyuan went rogue and created the Ultimate Taboo instead, the overall goal was achieved.

"Now, I'm even more confident that Emperor Kong has the destiny of a Transcendent Faction. I'm also convinced that Wonders might be one of Grand Dao's greatest tools on the chessboard. Whenever one appears, there must be a grand plan at play."

"According to your theory, Heavenly Dao wanted the world to prosper, so it's understandable why it would release the Yin-Yang Land to give birth to more talented cultivators, ensuring the prosperity of the Golden Era," Wu Hong nodded.

"Everything is connected, and everyone is either a chess piece or a chess player," Wang Wei sighed.

"Such simple yet profound words," Wu Hong sighed. Paragons are at the top of the world, so they should be chess players, right? No, they are only more valuable chess pieces. Only by taking a small step into the realm of transcendence can one be considered a chess player, but even they are chess pieces for people of higher levels like the Cardinals or the final boss, Grand Dao.

"Let's not think about such a depressing thing," Wang Wei continued. "Assuming my theory is correct, how many Transcendent Factions do you think this world can give birth to?"